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China

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19. ([REDACTED] - GLC) LIAISON Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, called and said the Committee has just received a letter from Chairman Pike giving them a series of questions on what reports the Agency has given them on covert action operations. Slatinshek said he would like either [REDACTED] or me to stop by to see him and talk to him about it.

Slatinshek said some members have expressed an interest in going to the People's Republic of China and asked me if I knew who he could get in touch with other than the State Department. I told Slatinshek I thought the PRC had a liaison officer in Washington whom I thought he could talk to and that I would be back in touch about it.

I told Slatinshek that the Senate Select Committee has gotten on to some of our documents having to do with committee briefings. It relates to Chile, Cuba, and a number of other topics. I told him the Director had provided the SSC some statistics but the Committee has now come back and asked to look at our Journals. I told Slatinshek, as he knew, we also write memoranda for the record on our briefing sessions; our Journals only indicate who accompanied the Director to the briefing, the date, the time, and then references the Memorandum for the Record. I said I expect that if they look at our Journal items they will then want access to our memoranda, but that is where we would draw the line. These memoranda are usually prepared in lieu of a transcript and are privileged Committee documents in our custody. Therefore, the Select Committees would have to direct any requests for them to the oversight committee concerned. I told him that this is the way Guy McConnell, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, and Edward Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, feel about them and asked Slatinshek if he agreed with this philosophy. He said he did indeed and asked if we had gotten the same kind of request from the House Select Committee. I told him not as such; but they have asked about covert action. Slatinshek said the House Select Committee asked them how many times we have reported to them and were they satisfied.

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 GEORGE L. CARY
 Legislative Counsel

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Mr. Warner Mr. Thuermer Mr. Parmenter